

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 254974  
ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 ERDA-07 SS-15 OES-07  
SP-02 /078 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/I:BGGARNER:L/UNA:DPSTEWART  
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SA:IMPIKUS  
NASA/I:SEDOYLE  
L/T:POLSON  
NASA/G:HSKUPPERMAN  
S/P:WEGATHRIGHT  
EA/ANP:TWAJDA  
PM/ISP:MMICHAUD  
PM/ISO:COL.CORDER  
NASA/TN:CATAYLOR

-----128154 251813Z /45

P 251641Z OCT 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY  
INFO AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 254974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA:AS

SUBJECT:ESTABLISHMENT OF TEMPORARY NASA LASER TRACKING  
FACILITY

1. BACKGROUND: NASA IS UNDERTAKING AN EARTH AND OCEAN  
DYNAMICS PROGRAM TO IMPROVE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING  
OF THE SHAPE AND MOTIONS OF THE EARTH AND ITS OCEANS. PUR-  
POSE IS TO PROVIDE DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF  
PREDICTIVE MODELS FOR EARTHQUAKE HAZARD ALLEVIATION, OCEAN  
SURFACE CONDITIONS AND OCEAN CIRCULATIONS. THESE INVES-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 254974

TIGATIONS SHOULD ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF EARTHQUAKES,  
VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS, MINERAL DIFFERENTIATIONS, SHIP NAVIGA-  
TION AND CLIMATE AND WEATHER FORECASTING. TO ACCOMPLISH  
ABOVE, NASA PRESENTLY DEVELOPING AND VALIDATING LASER  
TRACKING SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE USED IN PROGRAM. DURING

SECOND PHASE OF PROGRAM (MID-1978-MID 1980), A GLOBAL

MOBILE SATELLITE LASER TRACKING NETWORK WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN SUPPORT OF NASA'S SEASAT SATELLITES TO BE LAUNCHED DURING THAT PERIOD. IN LATER PART OF 1980S, STATION WILL BE MOVED, AS REQUIRED, TO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING THE MONITORING OF TECTONIC PLATE MOTION AND OTHER PHENOMENA.

2. SEASAT-A IS PLANNED FOR LAUNCH IN 1978. IT WILL CIRCLE THE EARTH 14 TIMES DAILY AND COVER 95 PERCENT OF THE GLOBAL OCEAN AREA EVERY 36 HOURS. IT WILL SEND BACK INFORMATION ON SURFACE WINDS AND TEMPERATURE, CURRENT, WAVE HEIGHTS, ICE CONDITIONS, OCEAN TOPOGRAPHY, AND COASTAL STORM ACTIVITY.

3. ONE OF SITES PLANNED FOR LASER TRACKING FACILITY DURING SECOND PHASE OF PROGRAM IS GERALDTON, AUSTRALIA. PLANNED DATES OF OPERATION WOULD BE FOR 15 MONTH PERIOD COMMENCING ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 1979.

4. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THIS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN NASA AND ITS AUSTRALIAN COOPERATING AGENCY, THE DEPT OF SCIENCE. DOS AT NASA'S REQUEST, CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY SITE SURVEY WHICH RESULTED IN SELECTION OF GERALDTON LOCATION.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY INITIATE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 254974

AMEND PRESENT AGREEMENT (TIAS 6866) TO PROVIDE FOR THIS TEMPORARY FACILITY. AT SAME TIME, AGREEMENT CAN BE AMENDED TO REFLECT CHANGE OF NAME OF AUSTRALIAN COOPERATING AGENCY TO DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND DELETION OF FACILITIES LISTED IN PARA 2(A), (C), (F) AND (G) WHICH ARE NO LONGER OPERATIONAL.

6. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROPOSED NOTE CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FACILITY:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NASA TEMPORARY MOBILE SATELLITE LASER TRACKING FACILITY. THIS FACILITY WOULD BE LOCATED AT A SITE SOME 80 KM SOUTHEAST OF GERALDTON AUSTRALIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE. PARA.

QUOTE: THE STATION WOULD CONSIST OF (1) AN ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT VAN, (2) AN OPTICAL/MECHANICAL VAN, (3) A TRAILER MOUNTED SURVEILLANCE RADAR, (4) AN OFFICE MAINTENANCE/

STORAGE/COMFORT VAN, AND (5) A POWER GENERATION VAN (IF NEEDED). IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT NASA WILL LEASE THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES REQUIRED FROM THE APPROPRIATE AUSTRALIAN AGENCY. CONSISTENT WITH PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, THE SITE WILL BE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA FURNISHED BY NASA. THE STATION, ALTHOUGH OPERATED BY AMERICAN

CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL, WILL BE UNDER THE GENERAL COGNIZANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND STATION DIRECTOR OF THE ORRORAL VALLEY STATE TRACKING AND DATA ACQUISITION NETWORK STATION. U.S. OPERATING PERSONNEL WILL BE USED BECAUSE OF THE SHORT TERM OF OPERATION AND THE INTENSIVE TRAINING THAT IS REQUIRED. HOWEVER, LOCAL SERVICES AND PERSON-  
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PAGE 04 STATE 254974

NEL WILL BE USED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE. OPERATIONS WOULD COMMENCE ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 1979 AND CONTINUE THROUGH THE DURATION OF THE PRESENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT UNTIL FEBRUARY 26, 1980. RENEWAL OF THE BASIC AGREEMENT WOULD CONSIDER STATION NEEDS IN AUSTRALIA OF THE SEASAT PROGRAM BEYOND FEBRUARY 1980. AT PRESENT, NASA ENVISAGES OPERATIONS NOT TO EXCEED 15 MONTHS. PARA

QUOTE: ACCORDINGLY, AS PROVIDED FOR IN PARAGRAPH 2(2) OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND AUSTRALIA EFFECTED BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES MARCH 25, 1970, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES TO AMEND THE LIST OF FACILITIES SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 2(1) OF THAT AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE THE TEMPORARY TRACKING FACILITY DESCRIBED ABOVE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ALSO PROPOSES TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT TO REFLECT THE CHANGE IN NAME OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TO DELETE FROM PARAGRAPH TWO THE LIST OF THOSE FACILITIES WHICH ARE NO LONGER OPERATIONAL, NAMELY 2(A), (C), (F), AND (G).  
PARA.

QUOTE: IF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONCURS IN THE PROPOSALS OUTLINED ABOVE, THE EMBASSY HAS THE HONOR TO SUGGEST THAT THIS PRESENT NOTE AND THE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATORY REPLY SHALL TOGETHER CONSTITUTE AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS AS EFFECTED BY THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF MARCH 25, 1970. PARA

QUOTE: COMPLIMENTARY CLOST. UNQUOTE.

7. IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE ASAP TO ENABLE PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION AND SITE PREPARATION TO BEGIN TO MEET THE EARLY 1979 OPERATIONAL DATE. PLEASE  
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PAGE 05 STATE 254974

KEEP DEPARTMENT POSTED AS TO STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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